

To: Barhite, Steven[Barhite.Steven@epa.gov]
From: Scott, Jeff
Sent: Thur 12/3/2015 2:43:33 AM
Subject: Fwd: Exide in Vernon, CA

Something to be aware of while I am out

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Maier, Brent" <Maier.Brent@epa.gov>
Date: December 2, 2015 at 10:58:41 AM PST
To: "Montiel, Johanna" <Johanna.Montiel@mail.house.gov>
Cc: "Huetteman, Tom" <Huetteman.Tom@epa.gov>, "Meer, Daniel" <Meer.Daniel@epa.gov>, "Reyes, Deldi" <Reyes.Deldi@epa.gov>, "Gross, Barbara" <Gross.Barbara@epa.gov>, "Keener, Bill" <Keener.Bill@epa.gov>, "Harris-Bishop, Rusty" <Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov>, "Stollman, Scott" <Stollman.Scott@epa.gov>, "Hood, Timonie" <Hood.Timonie@epa.gov>, "Berg, Elizabeth" <Berg.Elizabeth@epa.gov>, "Scott, Jeff" <Scott.Jeff@epa.gov>, "Manzanilla, Enrique" <Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov>, "Johnson, Kathleen" <Johnson.Kathleen@epa.gov>, "Armann, Steve" <Armann.Steve@epa.gov>, "LEONIDO-JOHN, STEVEN" <Leonido-John.Steven@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Exide in Vernon, CA

Johanna Montiel

Office of Congressman Xavier Becerra

Johanna -

Thank you for inquiry and questions in follow up to our recent call with your office regarding the Exide facility in Vernon, CA. I have shared your message with my colleagues in our Land, Superfund, and Enforcement Division colleagues who participated in our recent call with your office. I know that a few of my colleagues who were on our call are out of the office on travel this week, so I am hopeful to follow up with you sometime early next week as soon as they have had a chance to provide me with responses to share with your office.

Regards,

Brent Maier

Congressional Liaison

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX

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San Francisco, CA 94105

Ph: 415.947.4256

From: Montiel, Johanna [<mailto:Johanna.Montiel@mail.house.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 4:47 PM

To: Maier, Brent <Maier.Brent@epa.gov>

Subject: Exide in Vernon, CA

Hi Brent,

Thank you for setting up the call between your colleagues and Mr. Becerra's office to listen to our concerns regarding the closure and clean-up of the Exide plant and residential homes in Boyle Heights/ Vernon, California. Per our conversation, Congressman Becerra already spoke to the EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy on this issue, and I believe he asked if it was possible for EPA to provide an risk assessment report and provide recommendations as to what the best steps to move forward with during this clean-up process.

Based on our conversations, this does not sound like a possibility and we appreciate that you have been working with DTSC to redirect them to other similar instances like the case in Omaha, Nebraska.

I believe it was mentioned during the call that EPA will not be able to become involved

either through corrective action or superfund because the contamination of the area does not meet the 400 ppm. I was wondering how does EPA get to that number and what are the statues regulating this? Does EPA have a breakdown of the homes contaminated and the lead levels or that information that DTSC has? You also mentioned that the contamination level at Vernon, CA was only 85 ppm, do you happen to know how this number was calculated?

Additionally, I just want to flag for you some reports stating that there is some contamination of 5,000 ppm in some homes. In cases like these, where there are homes that exceed the 400 ppm threshold, can EPA become involved and would they be able to provide any resources to DTSC?

Finally, I know we talked about the case in Reading, PA where the EPA regional office worked alongside the state agency to make sure the clean-up process was completed. <http://www3.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/ca/exide.html>. Is the main difference just that the contamination levels were at 650 ppm?

I know I have a lot of questions, but I want to make sure I have all these answers for my boss. I really appreciate all your efforts in setting up the call and answering all of our questions.

Best,

Johanna

Johanna Montiel | Legislative Correspondent

Rep. Xavier Becerra (CA-34), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus

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